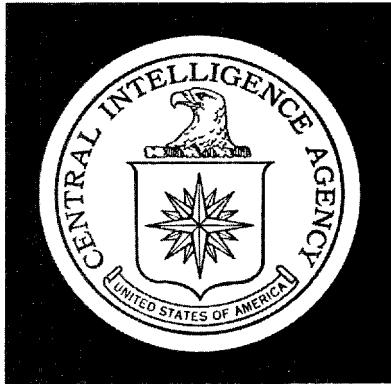


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*South Vietnam: The Vietnamese Communists are reviving the claim that they exercise administrative control over large areas of South Vietnam.

A "Liberation Radio" broadcast on 9 April alleged that many new "revolutionary administrations" have been established in the rural areas of Vietnam during the last two months. The Communists stated that since Tet they have gained control of 1.6 million more people and 600 additional hamlets and villages. The broadcast concluded that the new "administrations," which have been set up in all "liberated areas, both new and old," would eventually merge into a single organization to rule South Vietnam.

This theme appeared frequently in Communist propaganda immediately following Tet but had become rare by mid-March. Such claims of extensive control over people and territory, particularly in the rural areas of South Vietnam, have presumably been renewed under the impetus of prospective talks between North Vietnam and the US.

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In Saigon, Vice President Ky has concluded that Prime Minister Loc will "eventually" have to be replaced, [redacted] Dissatisfaction with Loc's ineffectual performance has been growing in political circles in recent weeks, and President Thieu has been considering a possible successor for him. Former presidential candidate Tran Van Huong is a leading contender.

Since Ky was originally instrumental in arranging Loc's appointment, the Vice President's withdrawal of support for the prime minister would presumably give President Thieu a freer hand to replace Loc at an early date.

Communist military activity in South Vietnam on 14-15 April was again characterized by small-unit actions and sporadic shellings of allied field positions. Allied sweep operations continue to turn up significant enemy arms and munitions caches but few Viet Cong units. [redacted]

West Germany: Bonn is reportedly considering the use of federal army troops to maintain order in a number of West German cities.

Chancellor Kiesinger has warned that continued violence will be met decisively by the authorities. Reflecting growing concern in Bonn, the Bundestag Interior Committee has been summoned into special session. There are indications that student demonstrators are planning to keep their protests going for some time.

For the moment, the demonstrations are being directed primarily against the publishing empire of Axel Springer, and students again sought to block distribution of Springer newspapers in several cities yesterday. These blockade attempts have resulted in sharp clashes with police and extensive property damage.

The East German regime is supporting the rioters in turbulent West Berlin. The latest involvement includes providing demonstrators free transportation via the East German - controlled S-bahn rapid transit system.

East Germany's main party daily, Neues Deutschland, is repeating allegations that the assailant of wounded student leader Dutschke is a neo-Nazi. West Berlin police reported that torches thrown at the Springer plant on 11 April were made of tightly rolled copies of Neues Deutschland.

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NOTES

Rumania-US: Rumania has accepted a US invitation to send a high-level scientific delegation to the US early next month. This is a further indication that the Rumanian desire for expanded relations with Western countries remains strong. Alexandru Birladeanu, a deputy premier charged with directing scientific research, is to lead the delegation which will visit Washington. The visit is particularly significant in view of the Vietnam situation. Furthermore, it may be scheduled during the same week the highly nationalistic Rumanian party celebrates its 47th anniversary.

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Bulgaria-Tunisia: Bulgaria, in a move to develop a long-term free world source of essential fertilizer, has agreed to invest some \$36 million in Tunisia's phosphate industry. This is the largest aid deal Tunisia has made with a Communist country. The arrangement guarantees repayment through delivery of phosphate rock to Bulgaria for 15 years. Bulgaria will also receive increased processed fertilizer deliveries, a small part of which are to be paid for out of Bulgaria's limited hard currency supply.

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